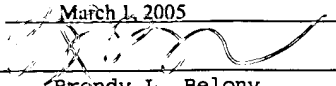




Filed Via Express Mail
Rec. No.: EV478581012US
On: March 1, 2005
By: 
Brendy L. Belony

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor :Toru KUWAHARA
Filed :June 7, 2001
For :APPARATUS AND METHOD OF.....
Serial Number :09/876,886

March 1, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

SIR:

In order to comply with discretionary regulations 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, attached hereto is a copy of Form PTO-1449 and copies of the non-US documents (if any) listed thereon. These documents contain information which the Examiner may consider to be important in deciding whether to issue a patent in the instant application.

Also enclosed is a copy of a Chinese Office Action dated December 24, 2004, with translation, from the corresponding Chinese Patent Application.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted in compliance with 37 §CFR 1.56 as an Examiner might consider any cited document important in deciding whether to allow the application to issue as a patent, but the citation of each document is not to be construed

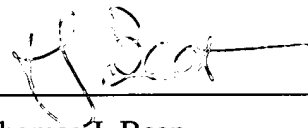
as an admission that such document is necessarily relevant or prior art. No representation is intended that the cited documents represent the results of a complete search, and it is anticipated that the Examiner in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search and will determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR 1.104 (a), and in the course of such search will review for relevance every document cited on the attached form even if not initialed.

Each item of information contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement, thus no fee is due.

Any fee due with this statement may be charged to Deposit Account 50-1290.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "T. Bean", is written over a horizontal line.

Thomas J. Bean
Reg. No. 44,528

Customer Number: 026304

Docket No.: SCET 18.734

Please type a plus sign (+) → +

Patent and Trademark Office

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

1449/PTO

U.S. Department of Commerce

Patent and Trademark Office

Application No. : 09/876,886

Filing Date : June 7, 2001

First Named Inventor: T. KUWAHARA

Group Art Unit :

Examiner Name :

Attorney Docket No. : SCET 18.734

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document	Kind Code if known ²	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD- YYYY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear

FOREIGN DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document Office ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Country	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YY	Pages, Columns Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		WO 99/14695	PCT	ADVANCED TRANSACTION SYSTEMS LIMITED	03-25-1999	

Other Prior Art-Non Patent Literature Documents

Examiner Initials	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), data, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, country, where published, source.	Applicant check her if English language translation attached
		Chinese Office Action dated December 24, 2004	
Examiner Signature		Date Considered	

next communication to applicant ¹Unique citation designation number. ²See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents ³Enter Office that Issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST 3) ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST 1⁶ if possible ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2 hours to complete Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of Information unless it displays a valid OMB control number DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS SEND TO Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.